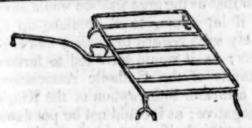
# COBBETT'S WEEKLY POLITICAL REGISTER

Vol., 67.-No. 16.]

LONDON, SATURDAY, 18TH APRIL, 1829.

Price 7d.



"My DEAR SIR,-I have, received your " letter of the 4th instant, and I assure you " that you do me justice in believing that I am " sincerely anxious to witness the settlement " of the Roman Catholic Question, which, by " benefitting the State, would confer a benefit " on every individual belonging to it. But I " confess I see no prospect of such a settlement. " Party has been mixed up with the considera-"tion of the question to such a degree, and "such violence pervades every discussion of it, that it is impossible to expect to prevail "upon men to consider it dispassionately. If "we could bury it in oblivion for a short time, " and employ that time diligently in the con-"sideration of its difficulties on all sides (for they are very great), I should not despair of seeing a satisfactory remedy. Believe me, " my dear Sir, ever your most faithful humble " servant, " WELLINGTON. " London, Dec. 11."

To DR. CURTIS.

TO THE

# DUKE OF WELLINGTON.

On his Reasons for passing the Cutholic

Chilworth, 13th April, 1829.

MY LORD DUKE,

THE job is now done: the half counter-reformation is accomplished: the haughty Protestant Church has, at the end of 280 years of insolent predominance and unparallelled oppressions and cruelties, got a famous blow, and has been compelled to hang her head. The thing is done; and we will, please God, now put on record the true history of the cause of it. This cannot be more conveniently done than in a commentary on the REASONS which you have given for the passing this important Bill; for the making of this half counter-reformation; for the Act by which you have

and sinew to ward off the blow: a commentary on the REASONS, given in your speech in the House of Lords, on the 3d of April, for passing the Bill, for giving this body-blow, is the most convenient way of putting the transaction

upon record.

It will be best first to give a sketch of your own statement of reasons. Your speech was long; a great deal of it was dull repetition of what had been before much better said a hundred times over by the newspapers; as a whole it was a mass of stuff, which, coming from a man known to have nothing to do in the distribution of the taxes, would have set the hearers a coughing, or blowing their But it contained YOUR REA-SONS for proposing and urging on and pushing through the measure; and these reasons I will now fairly state; and when I have done that, and have prevailed on the reader patiently to consider them, I will make my commentary and my record.

Your reasons were founded solely on matters relating to Ireland. Not on justice, not on right, but merely on expediency: not on the good effects to be expected from the measure, but on the evils that it was calculated to prevent: not, in short, on any good feeling for the parties benefitted, but on the danger of withholding the benefit. Your statement of reasons was, in substance, as follows.

You told the Lords, that this question had been under discussion for upwards of thirty years; that during that time a great many able statesmen had been for the measure, but you did not observe, that you had always been against it; that of late, and particularly last summer, new appearances of discontent and revolt, arising from a want of this measure, had showed themselves; that O'Con-NELL and the CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION had caused an organization dangerous to the peace of the kingdom, and that this was evinced in the large and clahumbled this haughty, persecuting morous assemblages of the people, in Church, who has strained every nerve the election for CLARE, in the progress

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of Mr. Lawless in the North, and in the very words in the reported speech) particular in the proposition by O'Con- rather than see a civil war for a single NELL and the Association to prevent day in a country to which you had an Catholics from dealing with Protestants, attachment, and, of course, to cause a violation of all contracts, which measure you said, you led, if let alone, to a breaking-up of verily believed the agitators had the society with regard to dealing and conpower of causing to be carried into effect. tracts; as it would have led to further You further said that this organization triumphs of the Catholic Association, prevented the King from exercising his and a further interruption of the King's prerogative in the making of a peer, the prerogative; as it could not be put down party being a Member of the House of without this balf counter-reformation or Commons and chosen for an Irish county, without a civil war; and, as any sachand who could not be promoted to the fice ought to be made rather than have peerage without producing in GALWAY, a day of civil war, it became a matter another scene like that exhibited in of necessity, of dire necessity, of neces-Clare; and that you could not advise sity like that which justifies people in the King to do that which would give pulling down a man's house to prevent another triumph to the Catholic Asso- a fire from spreading through a town; ciation; that besides all these reasons, it became a sort of life-and-death neceswithout yielding the things yielded by the army and in the navy. this Bill; that is to say, without making a half counter-reformation.

said, " If you found this monstrous or- Catholic Association; that you abhorred " ganization, why did you not put an the organization which they had made; determined not to do any thing to call manded. for the interference of powers civil or that, therefore, there was no pretence for bringing force to bear upon it! Wonderful "organization"!

But, further, you told the Lords, that even if the organization had been guilty

So that as the organization would have the organization affected the constitution sity to pass a law to enable Catholics to of juries, the election of churchwardens, sit in Parliament, to rule in corporations, and obstructed the course of law; to sit on the bench, to be sheriffs and that this organization (strange name to magistrates, and to fill all the great give it!) could not be put an end to offices of the State as well as those in

This was your STATEMENT OF REAsons; and the sum total of it is this, In answer to those Lords who had that you detested O'Connell and the " end to it by force, by law civil or that you would have crushed this or-" military:" in answer to this you said, ganization if you could; that you could in the first place, that you could not not do it without civil war, or without employ force upon this organization, granting that to obtain which the or-(wonderful organization!) seeing that it ganization was made; and that, there-committed no acts of violence, that it fore, filled with unconquerable horror did not violate the law, and that it would for civil war, you surrendered that which not have violated the law; that it was O'Connell and his followers had de-

This is THE SHORT STATEMENT OF military; that it was resolved to con- Your REASONS: that is your case, as the tinue to be perfectly peaceable; and lawyers say; and yet you and your adherents pretend that you have not acted from intimidation; pretend that the Catholic Association had not beaten you; pretend that the Act which you have passed is to be regarded as a boon; and of illegal acts or even violent acts, to that it has arisen from the "liberal spihave put it down would have required rit of the age," from the "wanst imthat which might be deemed a civil war; provement in intellect;" from the wonthat it could not have been put down derful " march of mind;" seeming to without civil war, and that you had so forget the march of Mr. Lawless and great a dislike to civil war, that you his hundred thousand men; and seemwould "make any sacrifice" (these are ing to forget what you yourselves say speak a good deal more presently.

But before I proceed to examine these reasons, and to show how childish they are, and how far they must be short of giving us the real motive of action in this case; before I do this, let me ask you shat had become of your pledge; your olemn engagement to prove to the Lords, that the measure would naturally tend to put down Popery, and to check the growth of it for ever." We must not lorget these words which were uttered in the House of Lords, in answer to a speech of the BISHOP of BATH and WELLS. You declined entering into a defence of he measure then, but said, that when the Bill came before the House, you engaged to prove, to the satisfaction of the House, that the Bill would have a endency, and would in fact do the hing, namely, put down Popery and check the growth of it for ever! It is curious enough, that when you came to attered not one single word upon this subject; made not the smallest attempt o fulfil your engagement to the BISHOP of BATH and WELLS; did not, on the contrary, deny that there might be daner to the Church; and so far from talkng about putting down Popery, and preventing the growth of it for ever, alked about the blessed effects of contiliation and union, and about the harmessness of the Catholic religion! The wo propositions would, indeed, have stood ery amiably by the side of each other; n the left hand, there would have been he necessity of conciliating the Cathoics; the necessity of giving them a share of political power; the necessity of puting them upon a level with Protestants; and, on the right hand, there would have

when put to the pinch, and seeming also nothing equal to this. However, this to forget the anger and rancour which monstrous contradiction did not appear you discover against those whose pro- in one and the same speech: the two ceedings produced that dire necessity of speeches were at three weeks' distance which you spoke, and of which I must from each other, and at a time when the mind is marching at such very quick step, it can hardly be expected not to get into a new latitude in the space of three weeks, absolutely a new latitude, and affected by a new climate. However, we must not forget this: in estimating your reasons, we must take into account the solemn pledge given to the

BISHOP Of BATH and WELLS.

And now let us take a look at these reasons. Your statement contains a string of bitter accusations against O'Connell and his brother agitators, and against the Catholics in general; you complain of their conduct; speak of them as a set of strange conspirators, having formed a dangerous organization hostile to the State; you seem to lament that they did nothing to justify the use of severe municipal law, or of military law; and yet your remedy is, conciliation! You say that you had power tenfold sufficient to put them down; plenty of force for defend the Bill before the House, you that purpose; and that they knew it; and that, therefore, they were so perfectly peaceable, so strictly obedient to the law, that they furnished not the smallest handle for meddling with them in a violent manner!

My LORD DUKE, if this were really the case; if the people were perfectly peaceable; if they were, as you said they were, apparently resolved never to break the peace; why not let them alone? Why be alarmed at their organization; why be uneasy about it; why bring Catholics into Parliament, and all the rest of it, in order to put down an organization, which was perfectly legal, and perfectly peaceable, and exposing neither individuals nor the Government to any danger whatsoever! The organization prevented the due exercise een a measure calculated to put down of the King's prerogative. His Majesty Popery and to prevent the growth of it could not make a Peer (poor man!) or ever. We have seen strange incon- without exposing another Irish county stencies of late: most monstrous chop- to scenes like those in Clare. And what ings backward and forward, contradic- harm was there in those scenes if they did ons the most palpable and the most not produce breaches of the peace, and candalous; but we really have seen if they had no tendency to produce any

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interference of either the magistrate er the military? What harm would there have been in a repetition of the scenes of Clare !

My Lord Duke, you are hemmed up in a dilemma here: you could not acknowledge that the agitators had frightened that they wanted, and all that they had you: that would never have done. You could not acknowledge that you had justify this Bill, upon the absolute necesdoubts of your power to put down the sity of it to put an end to this organizacombination: you could not acknowledge either of these; and therefore you were obliged to allege that the organization (queer word!) was perfectly inoffensive in the eye of the law; that it gave you no provocation to employ force either legal or military; and that in short, it was a perfectly inoffensive body in the eye of the law, and by no means dangerous to the peace of the country. What the devil did you want MORE, then? One would have thought that this was the very thing that ought to have pleased you. Here were no ribbon men, no white boys, no peep-o'-day boys, no Captain Rock's men; but a peaceable, perfectly peaceable, organization, from whom you expected not the smallest resistance to the law; and whom you looked upon as being resolved not to be goaded into any such resistance! What the devil, again do I say, did you want MORE, then! Why should you give up the Parliament, the Bench, and the Council to the Catholics; why should you make a half counter-reformation for the sole purpose of getting rid of an organization, so harmless in itself, and so far from threatening the state with any harm or any trouble ? This reason, therefore; this reason founded upon the extent and the peaceable disposition of the organization, is certainly the most contemptible, the most childish, that ever the organization; you show that you hate you express your abhorrence of them; you discover your anger against the

thing that could possibly justify the though you hold them up to our detestation; though you paint them as enemies of the state; though you say that you know, and they knew it too, that you could have crushed them in a moment; though you tell us all this; you come and defend a Bill which grants them all been refused for so many years, and you tion!

Seeing you in possession of that; seeing you the author of all that; seeing you with that speech in your mouth, I (for there is a great difference in tastes) do not envy you all you possess in this world. But the truth is not told: the plain reason is not stated. You tell us, or rather you told the House, that, even if it came to civil war; even if the wonderful organization had given provocation to employ the bullet or the bayonet upon it; even in that case; even if the parties had said: "We will sit in Parliament, we will be privy councillors, we will be judges, we will have a counterreformation, we will not be degraded slaves any longer, we will not suffer this upstart Church to degrade and punish us for adhering to the faith of our forefathers, we will have our claims or we will fight for it!" Your statement amounted to a declaration, that, if the organization had said even this, it was your duty to yield to it rather than venture upon a civil war. I appeal to the speech: I appeal to the fair construction of the words, that you would make any sacrifice rather than have a civil war for a single day. Well, then, there is no bounds; every thing must be yielded that an organization shall be pleased to demand. Please to observe, that I, for my part, am very glad that was put forward as the ground of action you have yielded; I am very glad that of any individual, or of any government you have been compelled to yield; I especially. You show that you detest am very glad that the dire necessity existed: I am very glad that CRANNER'S it, and hate those who had made it; you and Old Bess's Church has got the speak of the whole as hostile to the Go- blow; and you are manifestly very sorry them as beginning though you represent for it. Very sorry for the necessity which them as having no power that you could compels you to give the blow; for, in not have crushed in a moment; though this speech you discover your chagring agitators and the agitated; and in the Bill itself, an abundance of spite is discoverable against the Catholic faith, and the Catholic body generally; and bythe-by, in this very Bill are sowed the prolific seeds of new organizations and of new demands; of new dire necessities

and of new conciliations. I, for my part, am very glad of the existence of this imperious necessity; I am very glad that you are compelled to give way; but if you were thus compelled for reasons such as you have given; if it be right, if it be sound policy; if it be a state maxim that any sacrifice is to be made, rather than have a civil war for a single day; or, if you like, for a year or two; if it be determined that Governments ought to yield on any conditions rather than enter on civil war, do you expect never to hear of another organization? If you do, you are the most deceived of all mankind; and, indeed, if this maxim be adhered to, there must be an end to all government at once. If this new maxim of yours be a sound one, what a horribly wicked Government this has been; seeing that for a century last past it has had on its hands, in ENGLAND, in Scot-LAND, in INDIA, in NORTH AMERICA, in the WEST INDIES, and, oh God! in IRE-LAND, civil wars during, I believe, more than two-thirds of the whole of that time! Oh, no! this is strange doctrine, indeed! If a Government say to a people, I will make any sacrifice rather than have civil war, where are the foolish people that will pay a tax, or submit to any law whatsoever. When Can-NING told you to announce to the Congress at VERONA, that let what would happen, "ENGLAND WAS RE-"SOLVED TO HAVE PEACE FOR "HERSELF," the French, of course, instantly resolved to march into Spain. If England were resolved to have peace for herself, let what would happen, let other powers act as they might; if England were resolved to have peace for herself in such a case, France had only to do as she liked; and, accordingly,

she marched into Spain. Notwithstand-

man, and notwithstanding the pious prayers of the flabber-gaster Canning. If England were resolved to have peace for herself, she was, of course, resolved not to go to war; and as France cared nothing about her opinions and her prayers, any more than O'CONNELL and his Association cared about the opinions or the prayers of the Law-Church, France did what she intended to do, provided she had not to encounter the

hostility of England. Precisely thus is it in the present case. You were resolved to have peace for yourself; you were resolved to have no civil war, and, therefore, the organization, which you could not possibly put down without civil war, marched (after the manner of the French) not into any country, indeed, but into those seats, benches, and honours, which they had been kept out of for nearly three hundred years. For, and I do hope that this will be clearly understood, and borne in mind by every man in the kingdom, and that it will never be forgotten; that this measure would never have been thought of; that it never would have so much as entered into your mind; that you would have thought it madness in any one of your colleagues to talk of such a thing, had it not been for the Catholic organization in Ireland! And as to you and PEEL, who had become favorites with the great, chiefly on account of your declared hostility to this measure, every man of sense will declare, that it is impossible that you could have changed your minds in consequence of any

sense and of candour will say this; and yet you come and tell us, that there was not the smallest danger in the world, that this organization would have led to rebellion, or even to a breach of the peace. But if it had so led, you tell us that you had a force sufficient instantly to put it down; and that the organization knew that you possessed such force; but that though you had the force, you would not employ it in civil war, rather than resort to which you would make ing your friendly advice, notwithstandany sacrifice, and particularly the sacriing the prophecies of the stern-path- fice which has now been made.

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There has been no speaking out upon the nature of that imperious necessity. of which so many have talked. The imperious necessity has been put forward on many occasions during these voluminous debates: many a Peer and many a COMMONER has stood up and said, or words to the effect: "I have always been opposed to measures of this sort: I have always deemed them to be full of danger to the Church and the State; my principles and opinions remain exactly the same; but I believe that an imperious necessity exists for yielding at this time, and, therefore, I shall vote for the measure." More than fifty of the members of both Houses, taken together, have made use of words to this effect. The wise-acre in Somen-SETSHIRE said all this, and said that having confidence in PEEL, and PEEL having said that the measure was imperiously necessary, he, though he remained firm in all his former opinions, should give way and vote for the measure! Now, it is very certain that any Government, not really crack-brained, not having a madman or a fool at the head of it, will give way when imperious necessity demands; but what a strange sort of necessity it must be, which is occasioned by an organization that has not been guilty of the smallest breach of the peace; that does not threaten a breach of the peace; and what is more, that could, if it were to be guilty of a breach of the peace, be extinguished in a moment! What a strange imperious necessity it must be to arise from such an organiza-Oh no, my LORD DUKE, you do not tell us the secret; you do not let us into your real motive; but we gather that motive from the history of the whole transaction, and, indeed, it does pretty plainly peep out in this very speech upon which I am here commenting.

No man of any sense can refrain from laughing at the idea of making any sacrifice rather than run the risk of civil war. That really is nonsense; and therefore, we have to ask what the Government had to apprehend; and why did it make the prodigious sacrifice that it has made,

Oh, no! The true reason is not given. it has been compelled to make. The organization was resolved, you say, not to break the peace. And as to an election for GALWAY giving a new triumph to the Catholic Association, what harm could there have been in the triumph, seeing that it could not have put a Catholic member into Parliament, and seeing therefore, that like the other election, it must have ended in empty noise; but, shocking indeed would it have been, if Catholics had been put into Parliament, on the Bench, and in the Council. from the pitiful motive of preventing this triumph. There was then a motive different from all these; and that motive has, as I observed before, peeped out pretty broadly in this speech. One of the reasons which you give for yielding to the Catholics is, that O'CONNELL and his Association had declared their intention to prevent "Catholics from " dealing with Protestants, and of course "to cause a violation of all contracts"; and you said, that you " verily believed " the agitators to have had the power of " causing this threat to be carried into " effect." Now, though you do not mention another declaration of O'CONNELL made in the Association at about the same time; namely, that a stoppage ought to be put to the circulation of the notes of the Bank of Ireland; though you do not actually mention this, no one can believe that this was not deemed of full as much consequence as the threat about the dealings with Protestants! Indeed to take and circulate a banknote is to deal with the Protestant Bank of Dublin; but there was no disguise about the matter; there was nothing left to inference. O'CONNELL said plainly that he would recommend a cessation of all dealings with the Protestant Bank. Now, when was this said; when were these threats thrown out; look at the proceedings of the Catholic Association in Dublin, and you will see, that neither of them was thrown out; that neither of them became a subject of discussion, of of notice in newspapers, until after the appearance of your letter to Doctor CURTIS! After this it was that these terrific threats were thrown out; and, and which you are manifestly sorry that therefore, I believe, and every man of

sense with whom I am acquainted be- ed any very great and decided effect lieves; nineteen twentieths of the wellinformed people believe, that you changed your mind and resolved upon the measure, the moment these threats became subject of serious discussion in the Catholic Association of Dublin. Nothing can be clearer than this. Every one must believe, that you, when you wrote your letter to Dr. Cuaris, had no intention, even the most distant, of bringing forward the measure of Catholic Relief, as it is called. Every one must believe, that nothing new took place to alter your mind except these threats! CLARE was still what it was before: the agitators were going on just as they were going on before you wrote your letter to Dr. Curtis; but the moment you had written that letter came on the propositions and discussions about exclusive dealings, and about bank-notes; and this it was that frightened you: I have inserted your letter to Dr. Curris by way of motto to this Register. Let any man look at that, written to the Doctor, to the Lord Primate of Ireland, observe, the real Lord Primate of Ireland, the Catholic Lord Primate, the Catholic Archbishop of Armagh, which I acknowledge him to be, in spite of the Bill; let any man look at that Letter, let him consider that it was dated on the 11th of December; let him bear in mind that nothing new happens after the writing of that letter except the threats about dealings and bank-notes; then let him see, that out you come on the fifth of February, smack with the emancipation speech, with a resolution to adopt the very measure, which you had said, only fifty-five days before, it was impossible to think of at present; let any man thus read, and thus reflect, and idiot or mad must he be, or tax-eater till the food comes up into his mouth, unless he conclude that the Bill, which you have recently brought in, and which will make more than half a counter-reformation, is to be ascribed to your fears of the consequence of the threats relative to the dealings, and to the bank-notes, and particularly relative to the latter.

I do not say, nor do I believe, that you, or that the Bank Directors, expect-

from exclusive dealings and runs upon the Bank which might have been occasioned by O'Connell and his Association. You say with regard to the exclusive dealings and violations of contracts, that you verily believe that the agitators had the power to cause them to be carried into effect. Well, but this was not absolute destruction: these exclusive dealings and breaches of contract would not overset the Government in a twinkling. Besides, the lawyers in Ireland must have become barren indeed in invention, if they could not have tormented these exclusive dealers, and have terrified others from the practice. And after all, was not there the army to break up, to disperse, to extinguish the organization; was there not a law to transport men without judge or jury for being out of their houses between sunset and sunrise for fifteen minutes at a time? What was there to fear, then, from these exclusive dealers and violators of contracts? Such proceedings might have been put an end to in a twinkling, in a moment, merely by "applying," as your brother used to call it, the sunset and sunrise Act to any county, district, or province. Merely by applying this plaster, the evil might have been cured at any time, in any part of the country. "Yes, yes,"you will say, "but there would have been rebellion; there must have been civil war at last; this must have been the upshot; and I would make any sacrifice rather than have civil war, though for ever so short a space of time."

Well now, why, my LORD DUKE? Why have such a monstrous dislike to a little civil war, and especially since you appear highly to approve of the affair of Munchester in the year 1819. That affair lasted but a few hours, and there were five hundred men, women, and children killed or wounded. You say that they were met for an unlawful purpose. It is notorious that that purpose was for the obtaining of a Parliamentary Reform; the obtaining of their rights; and the organization in Ireland notoriously had just the same object in view ; that is to say, the obtaining of their rights. If, then, the assemblage at Man

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chester were illegal, those of the organization of Ireland must have been illegal; and yet you say, that the Magistrates could not interfere in Ireland, because the organization did nothing illegal. This is strange work, and must drive us about and make us hunt up an explanation, other than any that we have hitherto obtained.

I repeat that you feared a rebellion and civil war, not because to put down insurrection by civil war must be ruinous in itself; not because to cut down those who are denominated rebels is a thing naturally disliked by Governments; for, on the contrary, it is an universal maxim that a Government gains strength by an unsuccessful rebellion against it. Ah! but the case was different here: here were two rebellions for you to face; one in arms, perhaps, or in pitchforks, or sticks, or staves, or something which you would have crushed; but another, carried on against bank-notes, by Protestants as well as Catholics, and carried on by women as well as men, and by the friends of the Government as well as the foes of the Government, and by the friends of the Government more than the foes, because they are richer. Against this rebellion, which would have raged the moment the broomstick rebellion had been announced, you had no defence; you could not put it down; you could not crush it; it would have been as invisible, as destructive, and more swift than the most deadly pestilence. This, I am convinced, was the ground of the imperious necessity. I allow that the necessity was imperious: I do not blame you for yielding to the necessity; but I do blame you for not having frankly and publicly stated the ground of the necessity; and for having, even in this Bill itself, preserved the seeds of another organization, and of course, of another such necessity; I say, that this Bill really settles nothing; it concedes to one part of the Catholics, and takes from another part: it will entitle the Government to no thanks from any body; and will receive good hearty curses from the forty-shilling freeholders. As if for the express purpose of preventing the hatred of the Catholic ecclesiastics to-

wards the dominant Church being mitigated, the Bill does every thing that it can to offend and irritate them, and to make them active and zealous in pulling down the Church, at whose suggestion they are now insulted anew. The organization, as you call it, will doubtless be quieted for the present: we shall see, I dare say, O'CONNELL get a SOP, and his family and his dependants provided for at the public expense. Before he left England he avowed, to my certain knowledge he avowed, that he had given up all intention of causing a run upon the Bank: I know that he made this declaration, though the Bill about the forty-shilling freeholders had been brought in and read a second time. Therefore, it is likely that he is to have a sop, and that his family and dependants are to be provided for; and, as the Bill has been passed in consequence of dire necessity, as the dire necessity arose entirely from the organization in Ireland, and as O'CONNELL and his crew were the sole cause of this organization, a good large sop given to O'Con-NELL will square most admirably with all the hectoring assertions about not having been influenced by intimidation; square most admirably with all your and PEEL's declarations, that this measurewas dictated by imperious necessity, and that you, of course, lamented that necessity.

That another necessity will arise, full as imperious as the present, who can doubt? Do you believe that the Catholics of Ireland are going to be contented with the ascendancy of the Protestant Church, such as that ascendancy now is? Do you believe that six out of every seven persons in that country will be content to continue to pay tithes, and that too, in the most rigorous manner, and to pay burial fees into the bargain, and to pay for building parsonage houses, and for building and keeping churches in repair ! Do you believe that six persons out of seven will continue to do this, towards a Church, which they not only do not belong to, but which they look upon as heretical, and which they consequently abher! Do you think that they will continue to do this for any length of time, now that hev have discovered, that, by making n" organization," a perfectly peaceble organization; an organization that will bring neither peelers nor soldiers pon them; an organization, in short, which they can make and keep up without the smallest risk to any soul of them? Do you think, I say, that they will submit to pay as above mentioned, now that hey have discovered that, by such a harmless organization as the one which we have seen, and the one which you have described, they can instantly create in imperious necessity; and that that necessity that will bring " relief?" For 'relief," God knows they want from the grindings of the Protestant Church in Ireand, much more than the Duke of Norfolk stood in need of "relief" for the want of sitting among the Peers. It is hardly possible to form an idea of the nature of this latter "relief;" but from the payment of tithes, church-rates, burial fees, bread and wine expenses (good God for a Catholic to pay these!); from these payments, collected very frequently, as at SKIBBEREEN, by the aid of the pistol and the carabine; from these payments relief would be something solid; it would be real relief; and it is impossible to believe, that the Catholics of Ireland will ever desist from organizing until they shall have obtained this relief.

I perceive that, in the speech which you made in the Lords on the 3d of April, and on which I am offering a commentary, you pass high encomiums on the Protestant Clergy of the Church of Ireland; and insist on the safety of the Irish Church, on account of its indissoluble connexion with the English Church. I shall talk about this indissoluble connexion by-and-by, perhaps; at present a word or two about the excellent character, the piety, the learning, and the pastoral vigilance, and particularly the great benevolence and charity, of the Irish Protestant Clergy; a word or two about these. I do not wish to mention names, but we have, my LORD DURE, seen something of an IRISH BISHOP; we have seen something of the battles of SKIBBERGEN, and other places; we have seen some other particular specimens of this excel-

lent and pious body, but we will not take the trouble to name them at present. I will content myself with inserting here an extract from the petition which I offered to the county of Kent; and which petition would have been passed instead of that of LORD WINCHILSEA, if it had not been for the foul conduct of the insolent sheriff. The petition, and especially this extract, has been before the public ever since the latter end of October last; it contains a string of most horrible facts relative to the Church in Ireland, and of twenty thousand bishops, deans, rectors, &c., belonging to the Law-Church, not one man has been found to contradict this statement, though all the means of contradiction, if contradiction could have been given, were ready at the hand of every one who might have chosen to look into the Parliamentary reports. There is not in this statement one single fact exaggerated in the smallest degree; it follows, in the petition, a statement of the same nature relative to the county of Kent; and I here submit it to you; I beg you to look at it patiently; and then I beg you to consider, whether it be possible for this monstrous oppression to exist in Ireland, now that the people of that country have discovered that an organization leads to an imperious necessity, and that a blessed imperious necessity lends to a "relief."

"That, however, if your petitioners were so unjust and barharous as to "find, or so cowardly as to affect to find, consolation from reflecting that "their sufferings yield in point of se-"verity to those inflicted by the same " hand on others, they might find such consolation in contemplating the treatment of their unhappy fellow-subjects, " the Catholics and Dissenters in Ireland, in which part of the kingdom all the abuses, above enumerated, exist in a degree ten-fold greater than in Eng-" land; that, in that oppressed country, "there are 3,403 parishes; that the "tithes and glebes of all these are re-" ceived by less than 350 Rectors and "Vicars, even the livings being only " 515 in number, and that, of course, " each Parson has on an average the

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"tithes and glebes of more than nine " parishes; that of the 3,403 parishes, "there are only 139 which have par-" sonage-houses, and that, consequently, "there is but one parsonage-house to " every 24 parishes; and that in the " 3,403 parishes there are only 465 " churches, so that there is but one " church to seven parishes; that in this " state of things, the Churchof England " people have become less and less in " number, until, at last, there is not " more than one person of that religion " to every six who are Catholics or Dis-" senters; that in many parishes there " are not more than five or six church-" men in a parish, and that, in others, "there are none at all; and that, yet, the "Catholics and Dissenters, who, while " they build and repair their own cha-" pels and support their own ministers, " are compelled to pay tithes exacted in " the most rigorous manner, to a Clergy " whom they seldom see, and of whom "they often know not the names; are " harassed by the tithe proctors and by " processes issued frequently by the parsons themselves, acting as magis-" trates, and are, by the proctors, aided " by armed men, frequently stripped of " every thing in the world, even to their " last potato, and their last rag of cloth-"ing; so that, throughout whole dis-" tricts, the wretched people are, at " times, reduced to a state of rage, pro-" duced by the cravings of hunger, and by feelings of revenge; that here " your humble petitioners find the true " cause of all the discontents, all the " violences, all the horrid acts of blood, " which are constantly making their ap-" pearance in that unhappy country; " here, too, your humble petitioners see " the cause of those laws passed of late " years, for transporting Irishmen be-" youd the seas (and that, too, without " Judge and Jury); for being out of their " houses, for any filteen minutes at one " time, between sunset and sunrise; " and here, also, your petitioners see " the true cause that they themselves " are compelled to pay heavy taxes for " the support, in time of profound peace, " of a large standing army, for which

" than that of keeping their Irish fellow. " subjects in this horrible state of sub-" jection, oppression, and degradation."

I beseech you, my LORD DUKE, to look at this statement well: every word of it is true : and do you believe that this state of things will continue to be borne any considerable time longer! You observed in the course of the speech on which I am commenting, that there could be no danger to the Church of Ireland, seeing that it was, by the Act of Union, indissolubly connected with the Church of England. Well, but what then? Suppose this Act to have any force in this respect, the Act can be repealed. We have just seen that Acts can be repealed. There were only the other day Acts to keep Catholics out of both Houses of Parliament, and to keep them from the bench and the council, and all sorts of things; and now, to-day I imagine, or it will be to-morrow or next day, these Acts are all swept away, and Catholics are to be let into Parliament, and into all the other places like Protestants. So that, if we may, and I allow we may, laugh at the Acts of 1688, and repeal them, or burn them by the hands of the common hangman, if the Parliament like, surely this Act of Union is not like the laws of the One of the Medes and Perstans. BISHOPS (the BISHOP of LLANDAFF) said, during the debate of the 7th of April, that there was " no fear for the Irish Protes-" tant Church, so long as the Church of " England lasted. The Act of Union " secured this. The English Church "had, to use the words of a solemn " ceremony, taken the Irish Church " for better, for worse, for richer of " poorer, in sickness or in health, in " joy or in sorrow; and thus bound, "they must stand or fall together."
This, too, appears to have been your idea; and I think that it may not happen to be erroneous; it is very likely that they will stand or fall together; but, as when ADAM SMITH said that the Bank of England would stand as long as the British Government, PAINE answered, " that is only saying that one is no safer " they can discover no real use other than the other;" so say I in answer to

the BISHOP, relative to the union of these two churches; for there is no man of sense who will believe, that the English would survive the Irish for any

length of time.

But is it to be believed that the Irish Church, furnished in the manner it is with clergymen, and conducted in the manner it is in all sorts of ways, can possibly be suffered to continue without an effort on the part of the Catholics to obtain relief from it? This Church, though it has only 465 churches standing in the country, and less than 350 rectors and vicars owners of all the livings; this Church has the singular modesty to have no less than four Archbishops, and eighteen Bishops, nine of whom have double bishopricks. Fifteen out of the twenty-two were, a few years ago (my Court Kalendar for Ireland is six or seven years old), related to noble families; actually related to them by blood; and there were three of the Bishops belonging to the single family of Beresford; WILMAM BERESFORD, GEORGE BERESFORD, and JOHN GEORGE BERESFORD; and this JOHN GEORGE is now, it seems, the Archbishop of Ar-MAGH, and Primate of all Ireland! All these Bishops have immense revenues, far surpassing, on an average, those of England; immense estates in land. They have a good slice of the whole country; and as we see there is one of these immense Bishops to every sixteen Parsons; and one to about every twenty parish caurches! Why, my LORD DUKE, it is nonsense to suppose that this can continue for any length of time. It may not be very vigorously disturbed for a year or two, perhaps; but remain long it cannot; new organization will take place; new imperious necessities will arise; and as civil war is not to be thought of (indeed, I hope not!) new reliefs will take place as a matter of

PREL has, indeed, promised, and you have promised too, that, in case the Catholics do not show their gratitude for the generosity which they have now experienced; or, at least, for the relief, as it is called, which they have received; or,

behave well and quietly, PEEL has said (and you have said nearly the same thing) that he shall not hesitate for a moment to come down to the House with a Bill to make them feel the consequence of their ungrateful behaviour! Hub-bub-boo! the Irish will have exclaimed when they read this, as they used to do, when Old Bess's parsons first went to read CRANMER's Prayer Book to them. Hub-bub-boo! " Come down with a Bill!" What does he mean? Does he mean that there is never to be another imperious necessity arising from another peaceable organization, and that this necessity is never to be yielded to again? If he do mean this, he means as the Negroes say, a devil of a falsehood; for there will be future organizations, and futhre imperious necessities; and it is the very height of folly to suppose, that the Government will not act in such new emergency as it has acted

Suppose a proposition were made, by any considerable number of Catholic gentlemen in Ireland; suppose petitions to be presented upon such proposition; and supposing the petitioners to pray for a repeal of the Protestant Church as by law established. There would be no necessity to turn to the Statute Book: all that the new law would have to do, would be to order the revenues of the Church of Ireland to be applied as in former times, or to be taken into the hands of the Government. Every soul in England as well as in Ireland, except those who are immediately interested in the receipt of the tithes and taxes, would be for this There would then be no divimeasure. sion at all amongst the people. A nasty, vermin-bitten Methodist parson would not dare to show his nose as a petitioner against such a measure; and I should be glad to know how the petition could be rejected, if all Ireland (as would soon be the case) were in an uproar on the subject. Even the fundholders would be clamorous for this measure, as they must know that it would tend to make their claim the safer. It would be impossible to silence an organization having such an object in view, without granting the not to talk of gratitude, if they do not prayer. No question but troops might

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be brought to mow down the people; no in the newspapers, that if BRANDRETE question that the unarmed people would and his associates could have reached be beaten in the end; but, all the same LEICESTER OF NORTHAMPTON, with a circumstances would arise, as you have body of persons about them increasing apprehended now. The people might in number as they rolled on; nay, if be beaten: thousands might be killed in they could have advanced to Norting. the field, or tens of thousands, and hundreds might die on the gallows or on the block; but, at the same time, the papermoney system would be destroyed; for, even before the troops began to march against the rebels, the rich and loyal part of the community would begin to march to the bank or banks; and the very sound of the trouble of the system in Ireland would overthrow the system in England. From such an end this system can be preserved only by a bank restriction, and even that would hardly be sufficient for the purpose. The truth is, that, as the DEBT says to the KING of England, " you shall never go to war again while I am in existence;" so it says to him, "you shall never have civil war again while I am in existence;" which is very true; for if he have it the paper system disappears. " Papermoney is weakness in the end," and this Government now feels this important truth. A little trifling insurrection, not sufficient to leave any doubt as to the issue; a rising that a regiment or two can put down at once; an unarmed mob, however large, these excite little apprehension in the holders of funds and paper-money; but, if any thing worthy of the name of civil war take place, funds and paper-money disappear in a moment. In the year 1745, when the debt did not exceed fifty or sixty millions, the Bank of England, though it had then no notes under twenty pounds, was reduced to the necessity of paying in sixpences, in order to make people wait; and this only because a handful of Scotchmen had penetrated in arms into England; had just crossed the border; and who were driven out, or killed in a few days after their incursion. The fund dealers rely upon the overwhelming force of the army! This, though they never talk about it, and perhaps seldom think about it, they feel to be their great reliance; and they were not backward in declaring it in hinted at, and even mentioned outright,

HAM or DERBY, a one-pound note would not have been worth a shilling.

Therefore, my LORD DUKE (and it is worthy of the deepest consideration). this is a system which demands, to give it confidence, a great permanent military force. The necessity of a great army is created by the existence of an enormous debt, and consequently of an enormous taxation: there must be no doubtful struggle; no struggle for one moment doubtful, between the Government and any part of the people: the force must be, and must be known to be, so completely overwhelming, as to leave no hopes for discontented persons, and no fears for fundholders; and if you will look at the progress, you will see that the army has gone on regular-ly increasing with the debt. The military force stationed in the country, has, in its increase, kept an exact pace with the increase in the amount of the taxes. God will forgive us. I dare say, for our baseness in pretending to look upon this great standing army, in time of peace, as nothing contrary to the maxims of English law: I hope he will forgive us for it; and also for our matchless ingratitude towards our catholic forefathers, whose religion we have the stupid audacity to accuse of encouraging arbitrary power, when we all know, that they would have suffered the devil himself to be stationed in England, as readily as they would have suffered a standing army of a hundred thousand men, of even of one thousand men.

However, here we have the true secret of the whole of the measure just adopted. It arose out of the difficulty of managing the organization in Ireland, which could have been put down in the course of a week or two, or three at the most; but these three weeks were more than the funding and paper system could endure. Some of the newspapers have 1817, 18, and 19. It was openly said a defection of a character too delicale

or me to name, when I consider the exeme sensitiveness of the body to which the defection is imputed. But this does out very little alter the case. It only dds a little to the dangers of civil war: only makes it more dangerous to the paper-money men, the quick-sightedness and the sensibility of which are, in uch cases, truly surprising. Did you ot observe, my LORD DUKE, that the people on the Stock Exchange were exceedingly alive to this question, and hat their infernal concern went up then the catholic cause seemed to flouish, and down, when it was suspected hat it would fail! What should these lews and Quakers, or wretches worse han Jews, if possible; what should they care about religion; and especially why should the Christ-killing race have such a particular regard for the success of the Catholics, who have always considered hem, and treated them as Dogs; who, at Rome, shut them up on Sundays, and on all feast days, that they may not scandalize Christians by their presence, and who everywhere stigmatize their, calling as enormously wicked, and consider them as a band of blasphemers. Now, my LORD DUKE, what was it that could have made this horrible crew, this worst band of ruffians upon the face of the earth; what was it that could have made them the WARMEST POSSIBLE FRIENDS TO THE CATHOLIC CAUSE! Oh, no! my LORD DUKE, it is not true, as some persons say, that the DEVIL has become fond of holy water, or that these blaspheming wretches have become just and pious. It is that they saw, as you saw; just as you saw; their Jewish noses smelt out, that, if the Government did not give way, there must be a civil war in Ireland; and they saw, as you saw, that a civil war, though of ever so short a duration, would blow up the system on which they fatten. They were, therefore, all on the "liberal' side; all on the side of opposition to "bigotry;" and just the same would they be, my LORD DUKE, and just the same will they be, whenever a good loud cry shall be set up for a repeal of the Protestant Church in Ireland, for which

which I most sincerely hope, that you are fully prepared. The Irish hierarchy demands the constant presence of a great standing army, and the constant support of a numerous and most expensive gen-DARMERIE, commonly called a Police. These cost more than the hierarchy itself; and the whole together devour the country; swallow up all those means which ought to be left amongst the people to make them happy. England, too, is burdened heavily from the same cause. And what is all this for? hierarchy without flocks; and an army and gendarmerie to uphold that hierarchy! The thing must be changed. It is madness to imagine, that giving a feather to the Catholic aristocracy will make the Irish people endure this hierarchy with patience.

WM. COBBETT.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

In answer to a gentleman, who calls upon me to fulfil my promise to publish a little book, entitled, "ADVICE TO "YOUNG MEN IN THE MIDDLE AND " HIGHER RANKS OF LIFE"; and also in answer to many other applications on the same subject, I announce, that the said work will be published in Monthly Numbers, beginning with the month of June next; that each Number will contain 30 pages, besides the outside cover. the work will be comprised in about 12. Numbers, and that the price of each Number, on fine paper and print, will be only sixpence. In my next I shall, if I have room, describe, in some detail, the nature of the contents.

### CATALOGUE

OF

## AMERICAN SEEDS,

Which are to be had at 183, Flegt Street.

they be, my Lord Duke, and just the same would they be, my Lord Duke, and just the same will they be, whenever a good loud cry shall be set up for a repeal of the Protestant Church in Ireland, for which measure many people think, and for in the several parcels is such as I deem

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sufficient, or likely to be sufficient for any one gentleman to sow at one time. In some cases the parcels will be larger; in others smaller, according to the largeness or smallness of the seeds. In most cases, several thousand seeds of trees and shrubs will be contained in each two-shilling parcel. In some few cases I have thought it best to describe the measure or weight of the seed. In these cases the measure and weight will be adhered to, and the number of seeds disregarded; but it may be useful to notice, that a pound of Locust seed contains about twelve thousand seeds; every seed of which will grow and become a tree, if the instructions in my work called THE WOODLANDS are strictly followed; and thus any gentleman may have ten thousand Locust trees at least, ready to plant out next fall, for ten shillings. With regard to the manner of sowing and treating all the Forest trees, the instructions are given fully in With regard to the THE WOODLANDS. shrubs, instructions for the cultivation of them will be found in my English GAR-DENER. I shall not, unless I receive express orders to that effect, make up for sale any boxes of these seeds; but if any gentleman choose to have the whole collection, he shall be supplied by having them sent to him, or delivered to him in a box, and the whole charge, box and all, shall be three sovereigns and no more. - The weather having now become open again, all orders that have been received for trees shall be executed without delay.

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